

New Animal Welfare Bill to be put online for the public

PETALING JAYA: The draft of revised Animal Welfare Bill will be put online in August for the public to view and offer further feedback, said Deputy Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Minister Datuk Chua Tee Yong.

“As the people’s representative, I firmly believe I should be relentlessly scrupulous in ensuring that the final Animal Welfare Bill fully addresses the public’s concerns and suggestions.

Together we can put an end to all the mistreatment of animals.

— DATUK CHUA TEE YONG

“Therefore, I highly encourage people to continue providing their response online so that, together, we can put an end to all the mistreatment of animals in Malaysia,” Chua said in a statement yesterday.

Chua, who is MCA Young Professionals Bureau chairman, said the Bill was first put online for public viewing from June 19 to July 6.

Throughout the two-week period, the Bill received more than 5,000 hits and some 2,500 comments.

Among the proposals in the Bill is a RM50,000 fine and to include one-year jail time for animal welfare violations.

“The current Animal Welfare 1953 Act, which only imposes a RM200 fine for pet abuse, is insufficient and does not meet the requirements needed for animal welfare.

“The Animal Welfare Bill is the first of its kind in Malaysia. Proper legislation that deals with the unethical treatment of animals has been long overdue,” said Chua.